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Message Text

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72
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
---------- 119448
O 012020Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8248
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ASMARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1237

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS CASC ET
SUBJ: TENNECO SEVEN

REF: A. ATHENS 3316 (SENT INFO ROUTINE)
B. KHARTOUM 1167
C. STATE 115568 WITH NEW INSTRUCTIONF FROM WILSON TO GRAHAM

1. REF A ARRIVED KHARTOUM JUST BEFORE GRAHAM MET WITH ZEIN. CONTENTS PASSED TO HIM AS INSTRUCTED. MEETING WITH ZEIN PRODUCED SIGNIFICANT REVELATION WHICH, IF TRUE, WOULD APPEAR GIVE US NEW SITUATION.

2. ZEIN STATES THAT AMERICAN NURSE AND CANADIAN PILOT WERE NOT REPEAT NOT TAKEN BY ELF/GC GROUP THAT HAS ORIGINAL TENNECO CAPTIVES. GROUP THAT ATTACKED HOSPITAL AND SUBSEQUENTLY HIJACKED HELICOPTER ARE NOTELF, SAID ZEIN, BUT AN OUTLAW BAND OPERATING IN AREA.

3. TWO DAYS PRIOR ABOVE KIDNAPPING OF NURSE, (I.E. MAY 25) TENNECO CAPTIVES WERE MOVED 300 KILO-METERS NORTHWEST OF GHINDA TO AREA MORE CLOSELY SUPERVISED BY ELF/GC LEADERS. ZEIN ALSO CLAIMED THAT ELF GROUP HOLDING TENNECO FIVE HAD NEVER REPEAT NEVER SENT ANY MESSAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT TENNECO SHOULD SEND A HELICOPTER AND THAT ONE HOSTAGE WOULD
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SUBSEQUENTLY BE RELEASED.

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4. IN REPLY TO ATHENS 3316, ZEIN STATE THAT ORIGINAL DEMANDS
PARA 6 REF B ARE UNCHANGED.
THESE ARE:
A. NO MILITARY ACTION AGAINST UNIT HOLDING CAPTIVES.
B. A PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE TENNECO FIVE ARE DETAINED BY THE
ELF. (INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT NO MENTION MADE OF WHO SHOULD
MAKE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT)
C. A CERTAIN NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED.
IDENTITIES AND NUMBER TO BE NEGOTIATED.
D. 2 MILLION DOLLARS RANSOM.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION HOWEVER, ZEIN ADDED A NEW NOTE WHEN HE
CLAIMED ALL ABOVE POINTS ARE NEGOTIABLE.

6. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ON ESTIMATED TIMETABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS
AND RELEASE OF CAPTIVES ZEIN INDICATED10 TO 14 DAYS. HE STATTED THIS
TIME WAS REQUIRED TO ENSURE SAFETY FACTOR FOR ELF.

7. IN CONNECTION PARA 2 ATHEN 3316, ZEIN WILLING GO BUT MUST
OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION. HE SUGGESTED HOWEVER THAT LEADERS MAY PREFER
TO SEND SENIOR ELF REPS FROM BEIRUT OR DAMASCUS. IN
ANY EVENT ZEIN FELT HE WOULD NEED 72 HOURS TO GET FINAL DECISION.
HE INDICATED HE WOULD COMMENCE THE PROCESS OF GETTING A
DECISION. VIA HIS COMMUNICATIONS LINK TO ELF LEADERS.
ZEIN WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE LOCALLY.

8. GRAHAM TOLD ZEIN ABOUT THE NEGOTIATOR WHO WAS ENROUTE KHARTOUM
DESPITE GRAHAM'S FEELING THAT THIS PLAN WAS SUPERCEDED BY ATHENS
3316. ZEIN INDICATED THAT NEGOTIATOR (BURGHER) SHOULD AWAIT
ELF/GC DECISION ON SENDING A REP TO ATHENS BEFORE COMING
KHARTOUM.

9. COMMENT: EMBASSY UNABLE EXPLAIN APPARENT DISCREPANCY
BETWEEN WHAT WILSON TOLD DEPT (PARA 3, REF C) AND HIS EARLIER
INSTRUCTION TO GRAHAM HERE (REF A) HOWEVER,
ZEIN'S COMMENTS INDICATE THAT TWO DISTINTCT AND SEPARATE PROBLEMS
MAY EXIST: (1) THE TENNECO FIVE IN HANDS OF ELF/GC CAPTORS; AND
(2) NURSE AND PILOT IN HANDS OF APPARENTLY UNRELATED GROUP
REFERRED TO AS OUTLAW BY ELF REP. IF TRUE,
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MIGHT BE USEFUL HAVE MISSIONARY AND TENNECO EFFORTS PROCEED
CONCURRENTLY, AS THEY COULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS DIFFERENT
GUERILLA GROUPS. THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE STATEMENT TO EMBOFF
BY ABDUL WAHAB, CHIEF OF SUDANESE PUBLIC SECURITY, THAT,
BASED ON HIS KNOWLEDGE ZEINS CREDENTIALS, TENNECO CAPTIVES ARE
IN HANDS ELF/GC AND THAT INEVITABLY THERE WOULD BE SOME
POLITICAL STRINGS ATTACHED TO RELEASE. HOWEVER, ZEIN'S STATMENT
THAT THESE ARE NEGOTIABLE MAY BE ENCOURAGING. MEANWHILE, UNLESS

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OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, WE WILL COUNSEL GRAHAM TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION HERE PENDING SOME RESPONSE FROM ZEIN TO LATEST TENNECO SUGGESTION. BREWER

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